The Mad Engineer.

This thrilling story is furnished by a Prussian railroad conductor. My train left Dantzic in the morning generally about eight o'clock; but once a week we had to wait for the arrival

of the steamer from Stockholm. It was the morning of the steamer's arrival that I came down from the hotel and found that my engineer had been so seriously injured that he could not perform his work. A railway-carriage had run over him, and broken one of his legs. I went immediately to the engine-house to procure another engineer for I knew there were three or four in reserve there, but I was disappointed. I inquired for Westphal, but was informed that he had gone to Sreegen to see his mother. Gondolpho had been sent to Konigsberg, on the road. But where was Mayne? He had leave of absence for two days, and had gone no

one knew whither. Here was a fix. I heard the puffing of the steamer, and the passengers would be on hand in fifteen minutes. I ran to the guards and asked them if they knew where there was an engineer but they did not. I then went to the firemen and asked them if any one of I had seen was Martin Kroller. He them felt competent to run the engine to Bromberg. No one dared to attempt tin. You must get him off somehow." it. The distance was nearly one hundred miles. What was to be done?

The steamer stopped at the wharf, and those who were going on by rail came flocking to the station. They had eaten breakfast on board the boat, and were all ready for a fresh start. The baggage was checked and registered, the tickets bought, the different carriages assigned to the various classes of passengers, and the passengers themselves seated. The train was in readiness in the long station-house, and the engine was steaming and puffing away impatiently in the distant firing-house. It was past nine o'clock.

"Come, why don't we start?" growled an old fat Swede, who had been the whole engine was quivering and watching me narrowly for the last fifteen mintes.

And upon this there was a general chorus of anxious inquiry, which soon settled to downright murmuring. At this junction some one touched me on [the elbow. I turned and saw a stranger by my side. I expected that he was ly and frightful the face looked! going to remonstrate with me for my backwardness. In fact, I began to have strong temptations to pull off my uniform, for every anxious eye was fixed upon the glaring badges which marked me as the chief officer of the

However, this stranger was a middleeye was black and brilliant, -so brilliant that I could not for the life of me gaze steadily into it; and his lips, which polished marble than human flesh. His dress was black throughout, and not only set with exact nicety, but was scrupulously clean and neat. "You want an engineer, I under-

stand," he said, in a low, cautious tone, at the same time gazing quietly about hear what he said.

ready, and we have no engineer within twenty miles of this place.' "Well, sir, I am going to Bromberg;

I must go, and I will run the engine for you!"

engineer?'

"I am, sir, -one of the oldest in the forward. country,-and am now on my way to make arrangements for a great improvement I have invented for the application of steam to a locomotive. My name is Martin Kroller. If you wish, I will run as far as Bromberg; and I

Was I not fortunate? I determined to accept the man's offer at once, and so I told him. He received my answer with a nod and a smile. I went with added; "let's shoot him. him to the house, where we found the iron-horse in charge of the fireman, and all ready for a start. Kroller got upon stood, and we saw that the madman most Country Stores. Be sure, and ask for Dr all ready for a start. Kroller got upon the platform, and I followed him. I had never seen a man betray such pe- a steadiness of nerve which I could not culiar aptness amid machinery as he did. He let on the steam in an instant, but yet with care and judgment, and he backed up to the baggage-carriage with that the pistol fell I sprang forward, the most exact nicety. I had seen and the German followed me. I graspenough to assure me that he ed the man by the arm; but I should was thoroughly acquainted with the business, and I felt composed once more. I gave my engine up to the new man, and then hastened away to the office. Word was passed for all the passengers to take their seats, and soon afterward I waved my hand to the engineer. There was a puff,-a groaning of the heavy axletrees,-a trembling of the building,-and the train was in motion. I leaped upon the platform of

the guard-carriage, and in a few minutes more the station-house was far behind us. In less than an hour we reached Dirsham, where we took up the passengers that had come on the Konigsberg railway. Here I went forward and asked Kroller how he liked the engine. He

replied that he liked it very much. "But," he added, with a strange sparkling of the eye, "wait until I get my improvement, and then you will see | by was his. He said it was one in, and that it travelling. By the soul of the Virgin had been stolen from him. We sent Mother, sir, I could run an engine of for more help to arrest him, and he

my construction to the moon in four- fled. and-twenty hours!" I smiled at what I thought his enthusiasm, and then went back to my Dantzic.

station. As soon as the Konigsberg passengers were all on board, and their baggage-carriage attached, we started on again. Soon after, I went into the guard-carriage, and sat down. An early train from Konigsberg had been through two hours before reaching Bromberg, and that was at Little Oscue, where we took on board the Western

"How we go!" uttered one of the guard, some fifteen minutes after we tude to him may have prevented a far had left Dirsham.

"The new engineer is trying the speed," I replied, not yet having any

was running a little too fast. The carriage began to sway to and fro, and I could hear exclamations of fright from the passengers.

"Good heavens!" cried one of the past year, not even his mad freak on guard, coming in at that moment. "what is that fellow doing? Look, sir, and see how we are going." I looked at the window, and found by a crazy engineer.

that we were dashing along at a speed never before travelled on that road. Posts, fences, rocks, and trees flew by in one undistinguished mass, and the carriages now swayed fearfully. started to my feet, and met a passenger on the platform. He was one of the chief owners of our road, and was just on his way to Berlin. He was pale and

on the engine?" "Yes," I told him. "Holy Virgin! didn't you know

"Know?" I repeated, somewhat puzzled: "what do you mean? He told me his name was Kroller, and that he was an engineer. We had no one to run the engine, and-"

"You took him!" interrupted the man. "Good heavens, sir, he is as crazy as a man can be! He turned his brain over a new plan for applying steam power. I saw him at the station, but did not fully recognize him, as I was in a hurry. Just now one of your passengers told me that your engineers were all gone this morning, and that you found one that was a stranger to you. Then I knew that the man whom had escaped from the hospital at Stet-

The whole fearful truth was now open to me. The speed of the train was increasing every moment, and I knew that a few more miles per hour would launch us all into destruction. called to the guard, and then made my way forward as quick as possible. reached the after platform of the after tender, and there stood Kroller upon the engine-board, his hat and coat off, his long black hair floating wildly in the wind, his shirt unbuttoned at the front, his sleeves rolled up, with a pistol in his teeth, and thus glaring upon the fireman, who lay motionless upon the fuel. The furnace was stuffed till the swaying as though it would shiver to

"Kroller! Kroller!" I cried at the top of my voice.

The crazy engineer started and caught the pistol in his hand. O, how those Sarsaparilla great black eyes glared, and how ghast-"Ha! ha! ha!" he yelled demoniacally, glaring upon me like a roused

"They swore that I could not make it! But see! see! See my new power! See my new engine! I made it, and they are jealous of me! I made it, and when it was done, they stole it from me. But I have found it! For years I have been wandering in search | SKIN-DISEASES, place, in favor of this great aged man, tall and stout, with a face of of my great engine, and they swore it great energy and intelligence. His was not made. But I have found it! I knew it this morning when I saw it at Dantzic, and I was determined to have it. And I have got it! Ho!ho!ho! we're on the way to the moon, I say were very thin, seemed more like By the Virgin Mother, we'll be in the moon in four-and-twenty hours. Down. down, villian! If you move, I'll shoot

This was spoken to the poor fireman, who at that moment attempted to rise, and the frightened man sank back again. "Here's Little Oscue just before us!" cried out one of the guard. But even as he spoke the buildings were at hand. him, as though he wanted no one to A sickening sensation settled upon my

hear what he said.

"I do," I replied. "My train is all some. The houses flew by like lightning. I knew if the officers here had turned the switch as usual, we should be hurled into eternity in one fearful crash. I saw a flash,—it was another engine,-I closed my eyes; but still we thundered on! The officers had seen our speed, and, knowing that we would "Ha!" I uttered, "are you an not head up in that distance, they had changed the switch, so that we went

But there was sure death ahead, if we did not stop. Only fifteen miles from as was the town of Schwartz, on the Vistula; and at the rate we were going we should be there in a few minutes, for each minute carried us over a mile. The shrieks of the passengers now rose above the crash of the rails, will show you running that is running." and more terrific than all else arose the

demoniac yells of the mad engineer. "Merciful heavens!" gasped the guardsman, "there's not a moment to lose; Schwartz is close. But hold," he At that moment a tall, stout German

had his heavy pistol aimed at us. He grasped a huge stick of wood, and, with a Age have commanded, he hurled it with such force and precision that he knocked the pistol from the maniac's hand. I saw the movement, and on the instant have been nothing in his mad power, had I been alone. He would have hurled me from the platform, had not the student at that moment struck him upon the head with a stick of wood which he caught as he came over the

tender. Kroller settled down like a dead man, and on the next instant I shut off the steam and opened the valve. As the freed steam shrieked and howled in its escape, the speed began to decrease, and in a few minutes more the danger was passed. As I settled back, entirely overcome by the wild emotions that had raged within me, we began to turn the river; and before I was fairly recovered, the fireman had stopped the

train in the station-house at Schwartz. Martin Kroller, still insensible, was taken from the platform; and, as we carried him to the guard-room, one of the guard recognized him, and told us that he had been there about two weeks

"He came," said the guard, "and swore that an engine which stood near

"Well," I replied with a shudder, 'I wish he had approached me in the same way; but he was more cautious at

At Schwartz we found an engineer to run the engine to Bromberg; and having taken out the Western mail for the next Northern mail to carry along, we saw that Kroller was properly attended to, and then started on The rest of the trip we ran in safety,

though I could see the passengers were not wholly at ease, and would not be until they were entirely clear of the railway. A heavy purse was made up by them for the German student, and he accepted it with much gratitude, and I was glad of it; for the current of grati-tude to him may have prevented a far different current of feeling which might have poured upon my head for having on have poured upon my head for having engaged a madman to run a railroad train. But this is not the end. Martin Kroller remained insensible from the But erelong I began to apprehend he effects of the blow nearly two weeks; and when he recovered from that, he was sound again, his insanity was all gone. I saw him about three week's

> of me. He remembered nothing of the my engine. But I remembered it, and I remember it still; and the people need never fear that I shall be imposed upon again

Medical.

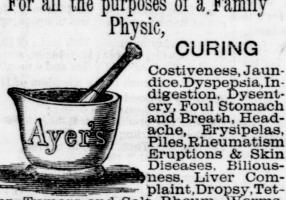
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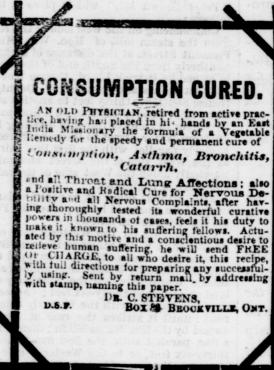
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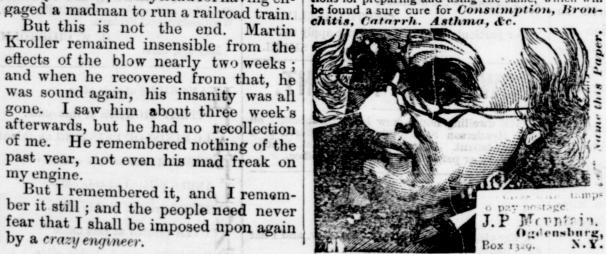
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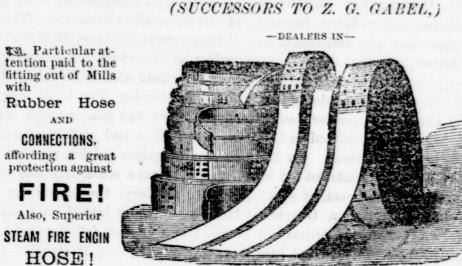
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